

# NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT

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## Two First Appointments That Are Both First-Rate

President Eisenhower's first appointments in his second administration go to places that are of critical importance as the United States looks toward Europe and the Middle East, and both are excellent. He has named General Walter Bedell Smith to be his special assistant on foreign policy matters and Arthur L. Larson, present Undersecretary of Labor, as the new head of the United States Information Agency.

General Smith, who is 61, brings to his new post in the government a wealth of experience. He was Undersecretary of State when he left the administration in 1954 to enter business. In addition to filling that post with distinction, he had been head of the Central Intelligence Agency and ambassador to the Soviet Union. During World War II, General Smith served as

chief of staff to General Eisenhower. The President has confidence in General Smith's tested judgment. It is a confidence shared by the nation.

General Smith's appointment is completely non-political. This professional soldier was first drafted for civilian government service by the Truman administration and was a carry-over of the Eisenhower administration.

Mr. Larson captured the attention of the President with a book called A Republican Looks at His Party, in which he pointed out that Mr. Eisenhower had captured "the authentic American center in politics." This theme had a natural appeal to the President, as did Mr. Larson's campaign argument that organized labor should vote the

Republican ticket. Mr. Larson is said to have had a major hand in the writing of the President's acceptance speech delivered at the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.

General Smith will fill an important post during Secretary of State Dulles' illness. Whether Mr. Dulles will be able to return to his post, or remain there long, if he does, is doubtful. President Eisenhower may have to appoint a secretary of state soon, if Mr. Dulles retires. At this time of crisis in Europe and the Middle East, with a policy division between the United States and its major allies of the Western Alliance, the appointment will be one of tremendous importance to this nation and to the world and to the future of peace. The appointment should be as non-partisan as that of General Smith, who is himself worthy of consideration for the top cabinet position.